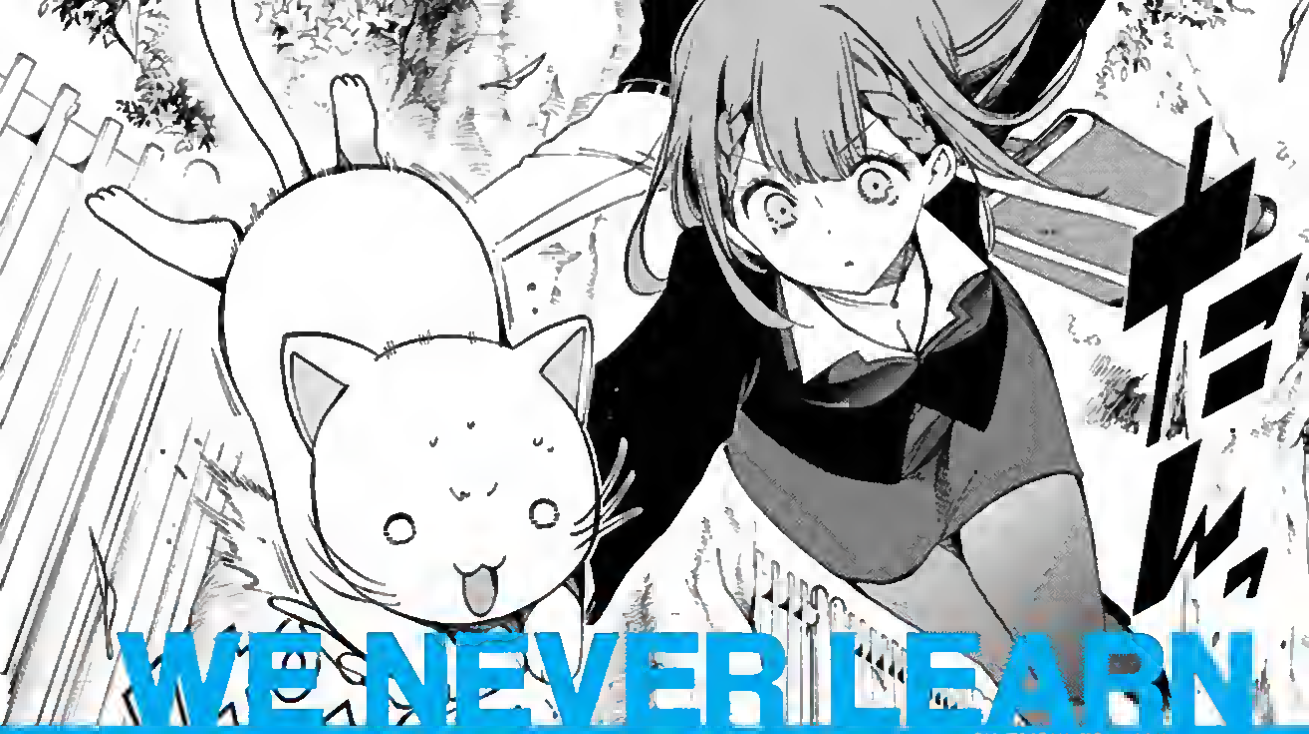


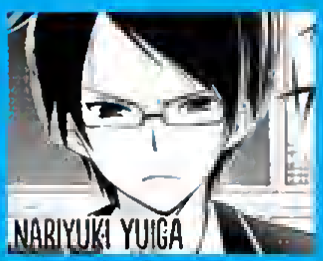
WE NEVER LEARN

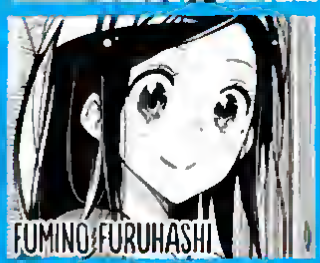
BY TAISHI TSUTSUI

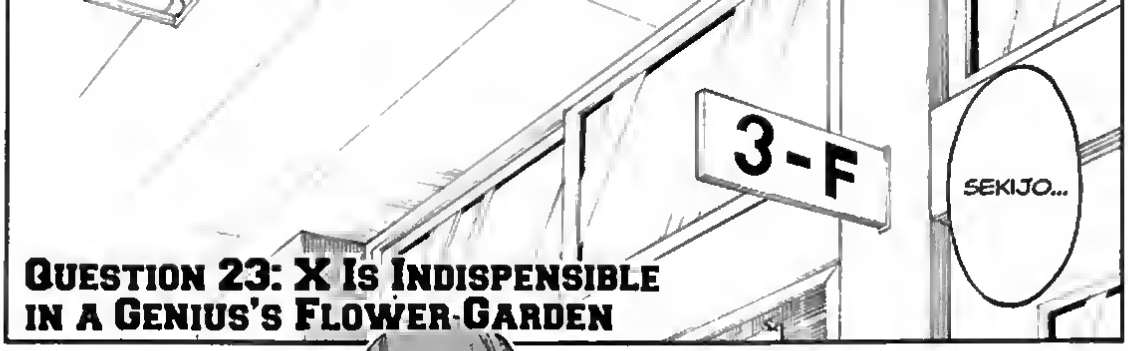
Nariyuki Yuiga is a self-professed super student. He's not naturally gifted in the sciences or arts like his classmates Rizu and Fumino, but he does have pluck and persistence! He's such a good student that he finally realizes his dream of obtaining a scholarship to college, which is a great relief since his family is dirt-poor! But there's a catch...

PREVIOUSLY IN *WE NEVER LEARN*:

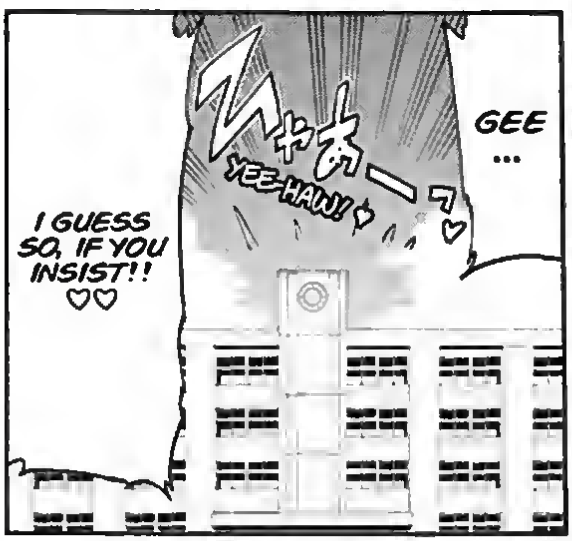
Nariyuki desperately wants to obtain a college scholarship to improve the quality of his life, especially since his father has died and left the family destitute. And much to Nariyuki's joy and surprise, he finds out from the school principal that he has earned that scholarship, but under one condition... Nariyuki must tutor science whiz Rizu and the literary genius Fumino to help them also get into college, which should be a breeze since they're geniuses. However, he quickly finds the opposite to be true, since Rizu wants to study literature and Fumino science! Making matters worse, those two geniuses suck at everything other than their field of specialty! But that's not all—now he has to tutor super athlete Uruka in English, which presents quite the problem since Uruka hates studying more than anything...







Question 23: X Is Indispensible in a Genius's Flower-Garden



OGATA UDON
YAAAY!
That's a long title!
I SHOULDA KNOWN!
IT'S NOT JUST THE TWO OF US.
I'VE GOT A BRILLIANT IDEA!
AN ALL-GIRLS ♡ PAJAMA PARTY STUDY SESH AT RIZURIN'S HOUSE!!
Beetles

WHY DID YOU INVITE ME?
UM, SO...
RIGHT... THANKS.
Sawa-chin?
WE'VE NEVER REALLY HUNG OUT BEFORE!
THANKS FOR JOINING US, SAWAKO!
SAWACHIN, HURRY UP AND GET INTO YOUR PJ'S!
BLRF
...SO I FIGURED YOU'D BE STOKED!
WELL, I ALWAYS SEE YOU STARING AT RICCHAN IN THE LIBRARY...
I DON'T STARE AT HER!
AND WHAT THE HECK IS A PAJAMA PARTY STUDY GROUP?!
WHY SHOULD I CHANGE INTO MY PJ'S?!
?
ON THE OTHER HAND...
PAJAMAS ARE PRETTY AWESOME !!
WHSH WHSH WHSH
HEY, SEKIJO ...
EASY DOES IT...

KHHRRR
IT'S ALMOST AS IF..
I'M STUDYING WITH RIZU OGATA!
SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT
SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT
...WE'RE ACTUAL FRIENDS!
!
GOT ANY TIPS?
IT ALWAYS TAKES ME FOR-EVER TO TRANSLATE LONG PASSAGES.
HEY, SAWA-CHIN ...
English
IT'S EXPLAINED RIGHT HERE.
LOOK.
SEKIJO, I'M WONDERING ABOUT THIS CHARACTER'S MOTIVES...
GO FOR IT.
YOU'VE GOT THE TRANS-LATIONS AND EXPLANA-TIONS RIGHT HERE.
TAP
THE MORE YOU PRACTICE, THE FASTER YOU'LL GET.
WELL ...
IT'S EXPLAINED IN THE TEXT!
SAWAKO, I DON'T GET THIS EQUA-TION...

WORMP...
HUUUH?!

WHEN THE THREE OF US TRY TO TEACH EACH OTHER, WE USUALLY JUST GET EVEN MORE CONFUSED!
RIGHT. HARD-CORE.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO BLOW YOU OFF...
BUT... WHY ASK ME ALL THIS STUFF?
I'm not used to teaching.
WELL...

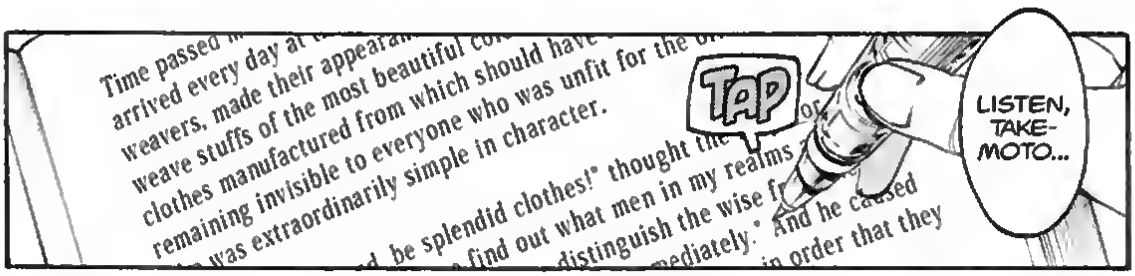
WELL, SAWAKO SEKIJO... IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
I HAVE AN IDEA.

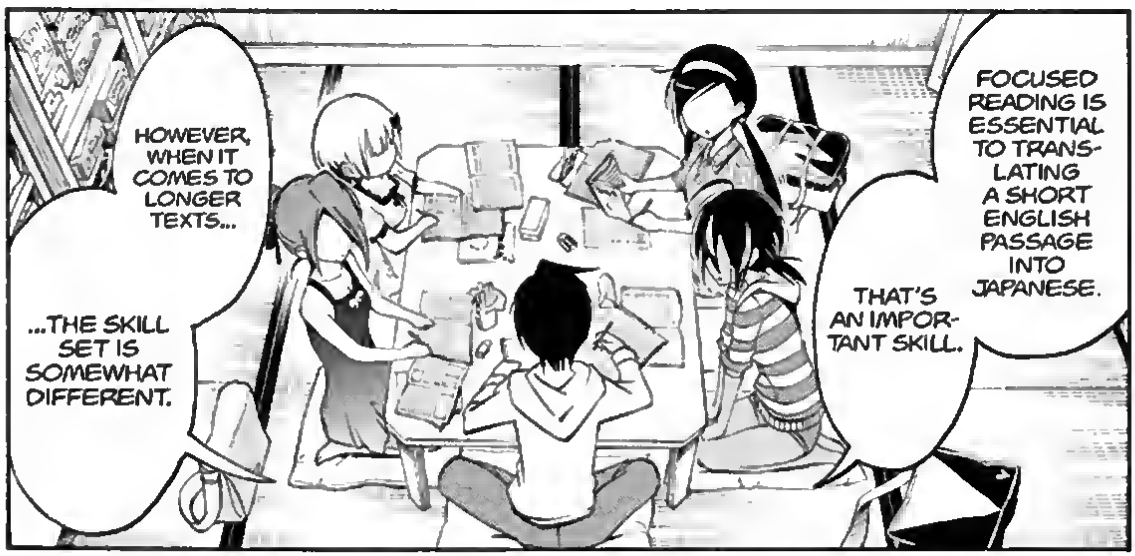
A NONSTOP BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS...
SAWA-CHIN!
SEKIJO...
SAWAKO!
THIS IS TRYING MY PATIENCE!

O.M.G-. NARI-YUKI?!
THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
OH... SURE... NO PROB...
Y-Y-YIKES! SAWAKO !!
PANIC PANIC
HUH?
SO WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NAKED.
WE'RE ALL IN OUR PAJAMAS!
GAH! WHAT NOW?
WISH I'D WORN SOME-THING CUTER!
BADMP BADMP
...

...OVERWHELMING FEELING OF A FORBIDDEN SECRET FLOWER GARDEN?!
?
WHAT IS THIS...
BADMP BADMP BADMP
HEY...I SHOULD LEAVE...
WHSH
DON'T ABANDON US, NARIYUKI YUIGA!
I CAN'T HANDLE THEM ON MY OWN!
SHUP
DON'T FORGET... YOU OWE ME ONE SINCE THE OVER-NIGHT STUDY RETREAT!
JOLT
P-SST!
YEEK! I HAVEN'T FORGOT-TEN!!
SHE'S SO CLOSE!!

WEIRD... MY STOMACH FEELS FUNNY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
HUH? TAKE-MOTO?
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU SO EAGER TO STUDY?!
KNOCKA KNOCKA
STARE
TUG
YANK
YANK
YANK
SHE'S RIGHT! SO WHAT IF WE'RE IN OUR PJ'S?!
C'MON, NARIYUKI! LET'S GET STUDYING!


Time passed
arrived every day at
weavers, made their appear
weave stuffs of the most beautiful co
clothes manufactured from which should have
remaining invisible to everyone who was unfit for the
was extraordinarily simple in character.
be splendid clothes!" thought the
find out what men in my realms
distinguish the wise fr
mediately." And he caused
in order that they
TAP
LISTEN, TAKE-MOTO...

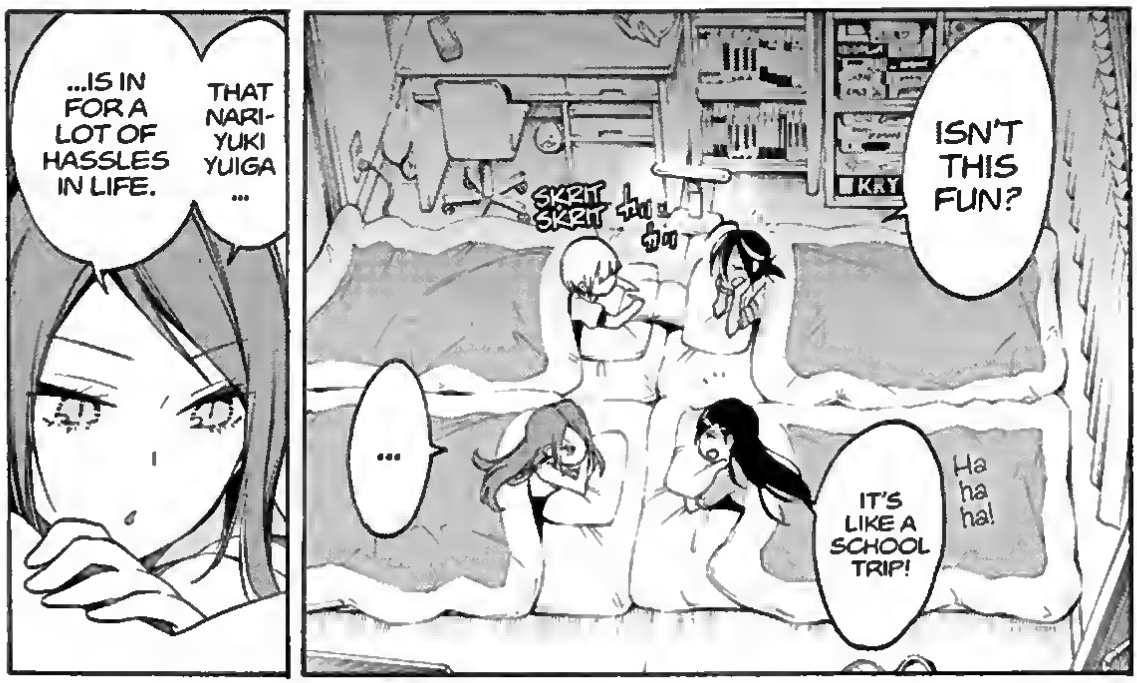

HOWEVER, WHEN IT COMES TO LONGER TEXTS...
...THE SKILL SET IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.
THAT'S AN IMPORTANT SKILL.
FOCUSED READING IS ESSENTIAL TO TRANSLATING A SHORT ENGLISH PASSAGE INTO JAPANESE.

...OF BREAKING UP THE TEXT INTO UNITS, FOR QUICKER COMPREHENSION.
BUT IF YOU WERE TRANSLATING A LONGER PASSAGE, I RECOMMEND A DIFFERENT TECHNIQUE...
I /ate /apples/ at /lunch.
「私は」「食べた」「りんごを」「昼食に」
HERE'S HOW WE WOULD NORMALLY TRANSLATE IT.
TAKE THIS SENTENCE, FOR EXAMPLE.
I ate apples at lunch.
「私は昼食にりんごを食べた」
...THE GIST OF THE TEXT WILL MAKE SENSE NATURALLY.
IF YOU JUST TRANSLATE ONE UNIT AT A TIME...
THAT'S HOW NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS FIGURE THINGS OUT.
YUIGA, ABOUT THIS FORMULA ...
SURE. REMEMBER THIS...
YUIGA, ABOUT THIS CHARACTER'S MOTIVES...
YES. LET ME EXPLAIN...
WOW...
...
I THINK I CAN DO THAT!
WOW! I GET IT!
THANK YOU, NARI-YUKI!

KNOCK KNOCK
!
OGATA UDON
DROOL
THANK YOU, SIR!
I'VE GOT UDON FOR YOUR DINNER!
OKAY, YOU GUYS!
HA HA! THANKS FOR BE-FRIENDING MY LITTLE RIZU!
Looks delish!
BOW
FLINCH
GLARE
...
THANK YOU, SIR...
OH!
AW...
EAT UP, NOW!
YOU TOO, SENSEI ..
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.

IT'S GETTING PRETTY LATE!
OH!
Great texture...
AFTER I EAT I SHOULD GET GOING.
RIGHT!!
IT'S JUST THIS ONE NIGHT.
BUT... MY DIET...
OH!
SHAKA SHAKA
SO YUMMY!!
OH... THAT PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE...
!
Yum!
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP OVER TOO, NARI-YUKI?
Ha ha
YEAH! THE NIGHT'S STILL YOUNG!
LEAVE IN 5 MINUTES OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

SHUDDER
AW...DON'T BE SUCH A STICK-IN-THE MUD!
SHUDDER
YEAH, IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO SLEEP OVER WITH A BUNCH OF GIRLS!
Ha ha ha
I'LL HEAD HOME!
ALSO... I'M NOT SUPER INTO RISKING MY LIFE...
SHUDDER


THAT NARI-YUKI YUIGA ...
...IS IN FOR A LOT OF HASSLES IN LIFE.
SKRIT SKRIT
ISN'T THIS FUN?
...
IT'S LIKE A SCHOOL TRIP!
Ha ha ha!

HE'S TOO GENEROUS FOR HIS OWN GOOD.
SKRIT
SKRIT
HIS GIRLFRIEND WILL HAVE IT ROUGH TOO.
I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW.
I WONDER...
...IF NARIYUKI HAS A CRUSH ON ANYONE...
HIS GIRLFRIEND...?
WELL...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ROPED HIM INTO HELPING US TODAY, SAWAKO!
BUT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
KRYTU
FREEZE
HUH?
THE... THE RUMORS, REMEMBER?! THERE WERE RUMORS!
DON'T GET ME WRONG... I COULD CARE LESS!
URUKA GOES STRAIGHT FOR THE JUGULAR!
BADMP BADMP

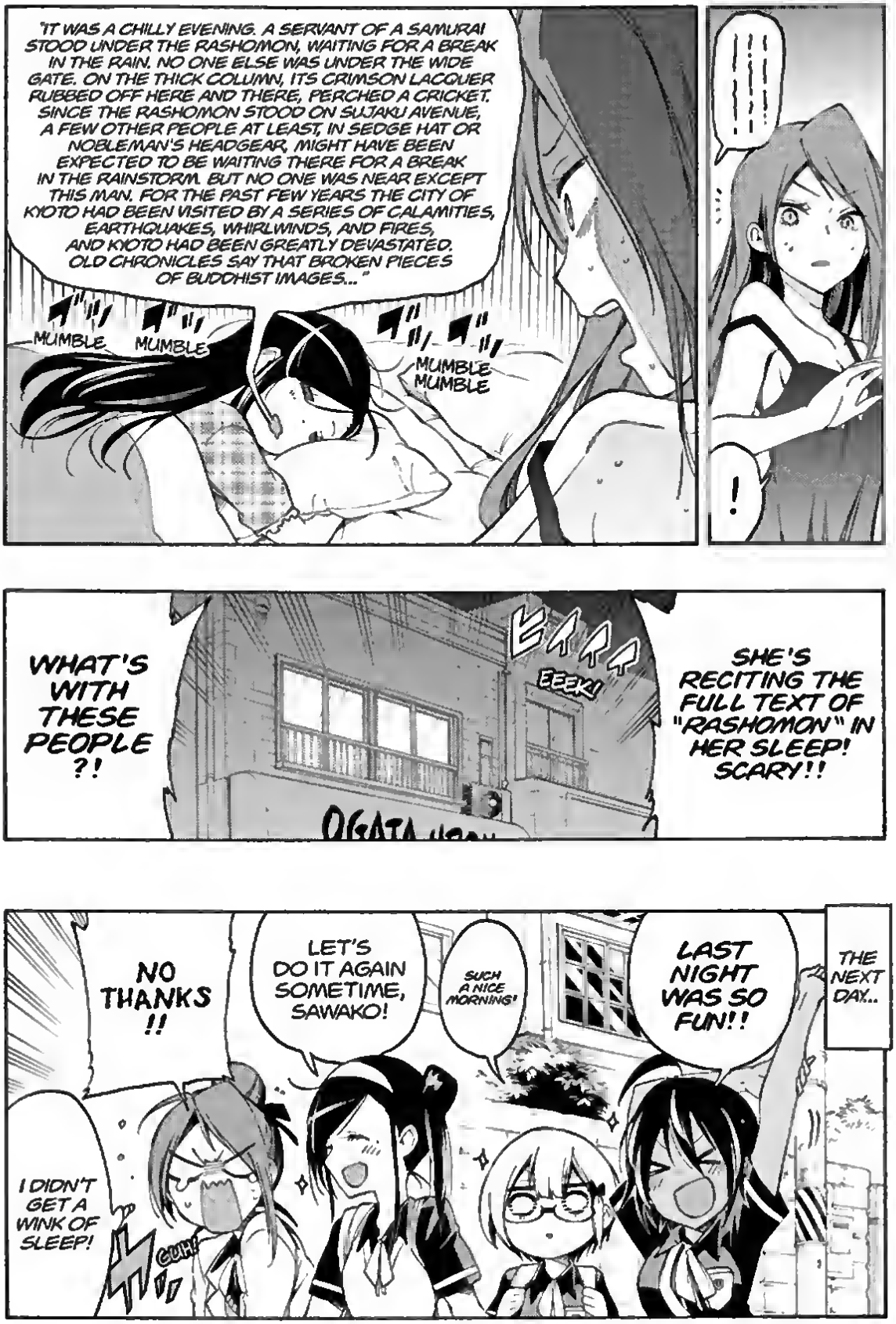
YIKES! SAWAKO GOES IN FOR THE KILL!!
I BET HE'S INTO GIRLS LIKE RIZU OGATA!
WELL, IF YOU ASK ME...
EEK!
AS I'VE SAID, I CONSIDER ROMANCE A HIGHLY INEFFICIENT WASTE OF ENERGY.
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME...
INTER-EST-ING.
SHE HASN'T COME TO TERMS WITH HER OWN FEELINGS.
SHIT SHIT
OH MAN! URUKA MUST BE REALLY SUFFERING!
IT SURE SEEMS LIKE HE LOOKS AT RIZU A LOT!
ZING...
ESPECIALLY HER BREASTS!
SAWAKO! DON'T BRING BREASTS INTO IT, PLEASE!!
YOU KNOW, I THINK ...
...URUKA IS PROBABLY MORE HIS TYPE!
I'VE GOTTA BALANCE THIS OUT!

WORMP
BUSHHH
!!!!
PERK
WORMP
OR... MAYBE RICCHAN IS, AFTER ALL?
SHOOT. I'M SORRY. YOU'RE BOTH ATTRACTIVE!
SKRIT SKRIT
HONESTLY...
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A GREAT THING GOING.
WELL, ENOUGH KIDDING AROUND.
KIDDING AROUND ?!

HE ANSWERED ALL OF YOUR ENDLESS QUESTIONS WITHOUT A WORD OF COMPLAINT.
I'M REALLY IMPRESSED.
SERIOUSLY ...
HE WAS SO PATIENT.
...TO HAVE A TUTOR LIKE THAT.
RIGHT?
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY...

OGATA UDON
WELL ...
I THINK I'LL REVIEW MY WORK-BOOK...
...JUT A BIT MORE BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP.
NO FAIR, FUMI-NOCCHI!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU SQUAB-BLING OVER?
THAT WAS MY INTENTION ALL ALONG!!
チッ TIK
チッ TIK
チッ TIK
WELL, WELL.
LOOKS LIKE THEY FINALLY RAN OUT OF JUICE.
ZZZ ZZZ
ZZZ ZZZ

WATCHING HER WORK SO HARD...
...ALMOST MAKES ME WANT TO SUPPORT HER IN TRYING FOR A LITERARY SCHOOL...
SHEESH!
TALK ABOUT ANNOYING!
HRLF ?!
BOOT
...IS A TOTAL SPAZ IN HER SLEEP !!
ROLLA
ROLLA
FLAIL
FLAIL
RIZU OGATA ...


"IT WAS A CHILLY EVENING. A SERVANT OF A SAMURAI STOOD UNDER THE RASHOMON, WAITING FOR A BREAK IN THE RAIN. NO ONE ELSE WAS UNDER THE WIDE GATE. ON THE THICK COLUMN, ITS CRIMSON LACQUER RUBBED OFF HERE AND THERE, PERCHED A CRICKET. SINCE THE RASHOMON STOOD ON SUJAKU AVENUE, A FEW OTHER PEOPLE AT LEAST, IN SEDGE HAT OR NOBLEMAN'S HEADGEAR, MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO BE WAITING THERE FOR A BREAK IN THE RAINSTORM. BUT NO ONE WAS NEAR EXCEPT THIS MAN. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS THE CITY OF KYOTO HAD BEEN VISITED BY A SERIES OF CALAMITIES, EARTHQUAKES, WHIRLWINDS, AND FIRES, AND KYOTO HAD BEEN GREATLY DEVASTATED. OLD CHRONICLES SAY THAT BROKEN PIECES OF BUDDHIST IMAGES..."
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
!!!
...
!
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE ?!
ヒィイィ
EEEK!
SHE'S RECITING THE FULL TEXT OF "RASHOMON" IN HER SLEEP! SCARY!!
THE NEXT DAY...
LAST NIGHT WAS SO FUN!!
SUCH A NICE MORNING!
LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME, SAWAKO!
NO THANKS !!
I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP!
GUH!

TO BE CONTINUED...